Tribal Tendu leaf collectors

887. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the unemployment and under employment amongst tribal Tendu leaf collectors;

(b) the steps proposed by the Government to bring them under the welfare schemes for beedi labour; and

(c) what funds are earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGAMA): (a) Tendu leaf collection is a seasonal work which commences from the first week of April and continues till first week of June or the commencement of the rains whichever is earlier. The inhabitants residing in the vicinity of forest, get employment opportunities and earn substantial amounts through involvement of their entire family members. During the remaining period they look after their normal work. Various employment generation programmes are in operation to promote and provide off-season employment in rural and tribal areas.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to include tribal tendu leaf collectors under the ongoing welfare schemes of the Ministry of Labour for beedi workers.

Applications pending for issue of licences to New Exporters

888. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite assurance given by Government to the new exporters that all licences will be issued within five days of applying many applications are pending in various stages;

(b) if so, the details of the pending applications as on 10th July, 1995; and

(c) by when the licences will be given to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) As per Paragraph 258 of the Hand Book of Procedures Vol. 1, every effort has to be made by the licensing authorities to dispose of applications for grant of licences expeditiously provided the application is complete in all respects and accompanied by prescribed documents. The time limit of 5 days is prescribed only in respect of duty free advance licences where input-output norms are notified and applicatioons are not required to be placed before the Zonal Advance Licencing Committee/Advance Licensing Committee.

While every effort is made to ensure that such licences are issued within the prescribed time period, there have been instances where the prescribed time limit has been exceeded. Such cases are closely monitored and instructions issued to ensure that they are disposed of at the earliest.

Export of non-basmati rice from Andhra Pradesh

889. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great scope for export of non-basmati rice from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any study has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir, However, State-wise data of exports is not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.